

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 39. This sheet, which includes Figs. 39 and 40, replaces the original sheet including Figs. 39 and 40.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 and 28 are currently pending. Claims 27 and 29-112 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 1-13, 15-26, and 28 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

The amended claims are supported by the originally filed specification at least at page 23, lines 9-11; and page 27, line 17 to page 28, line 2.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to as containing an informality; the specification was objected to as containing informalities; and Claims 1-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,678,135 to Fukui et al. (hereinafter “the ‘135 patent”).

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figure 39 has been amended to include reference number 1201. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is believed to have been overcome.

Regarding the objections to the specification, the specification has been amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the objections to the specification are believed to have been overcome.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus in which applications can be installed, the image forming apparatus, comprising: (1) an installed application storage part; (2) an application information obtaining part configured to obtain application information that includes information indicating whether an application is installable in the installed application storage part; and (3) a determination part configured to determine

whether the application is installable in the installed application storage part based on the application information.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the '135 patent is directed to an image forming apparatus for a multiplex copying system. In particular, the '135 patent discloses that when a new function is added to a copier, the copier cannot exhibit the expected functions sufficiently or at all, unless control programs stored in the copier match the new function.¹ The '135 patent discloses that after the new function has been added to the copier body 301, the copier body 301 compares an ID code, corresponding to version data of the new function, with its own program version. The '135 patent discloses that if the copier body 301 determines that, as a result of the comparison, it cannot deal with the new function sufficiently, it sends the ID code of the new function, its own ID code, and an updating program send request to CCU 2201. The '135 patent discloses that a managing unit 2203 receives the updating program send request, via the CCU 2201, and searches for adequate programs for version adjustment stored in a database of a memory unit 2402, based on the ID code of the new function and the copier body 301. Then, the '135 patent discloses that the managing unit 2203 dials the CCU 2201 and sends the programs thereto. Further, the '135 patent discloses that in response, the CCU 2201 transfers such data to the copier body 301, which writes them in nonvolatile RAM 629 or 614. Thereafter, the '135 patent discloses that the copier body 301 controls the new function on the basis of the updating programs.²

However, it is respectfully submitted that the '135 patent fails to disclose an application information obtaining part configured to obtain application information that includes information indicating whether an application is installable in the installed application storage part; and a determination part configured to determine whether the application is installable in the installed application storage part based on the application

¹ See the '135 patent, column 14, lines 44-48.

² Id. at column 15, lines 7-41.

information. Rather, as discussed above, the '135 patent simply discloses that a new function requires matching control programs, and that if the copier body 301 determines that it cannot deal with the new function sufficiently, or at all, the copier body 301 receives updating programs from the managing unit 2203 for controlling the new function. The '135 patent does not disclose determining whether the new function is installable, as the copier body 301 simply requests and receives updating programs, if existing control programs are insufficient to deal with the new function. Thus, the '135 patent does not disclose an application information obtaining part configured to obtain application information that includes information indicating whether an application is installable in the installed application storage part; and a determination part configured to determining whether the application is installable in the installed application storage part based on the application information.

Further, it is noted that the outstanding Office Action asserts that the additional function (*i.e.*, the new function), as disclosed in the '135 patent, teaches the installable application recited in Claim 1. However, the '135 patent discloses that indefinite peripherals having various additional functions may be connected to the body of the apparatus.³ That is, the '135 patent discloses that the additional functions are functions of connectable peripherals, not an application which can be installed on the image forming apparatus.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over the '135 patent.

Amended Claims 15 and 28 recite in part, obtaining application information that includes information indicating whether an application is installable in the image forming apparatus; and determining whether the application is installable in the image forming apparatus based on the application information.

³ See the '135 patent, Abstract.

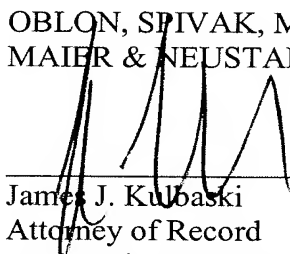
As noted above, the '135 patent fails to disclose the application information obtaining part and determination part recited in Claim 1. Thus, the '135 patent fails to disclose the methods of Claims 15 and 28, respectively. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 15 and 28 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '135 patent.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 15, and 28 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over the '135 patent.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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